

CLAIMS

[c1] A method in a computer system for executing code during a system management mode interrupt, the method comprising:

upon occurrence of a system management mode interrupt,
saving state of the computer system;
switching the computer system to protected mode;
executing 32-bit code that uses a global descriptor table that is different from the global descriptor table in use when the system management mode interrupt occurred; and
upon completion of the execution of the 32-bit code,
restoring the saved state of the computer system; and
returning from the occurrence of the interrupt.

[c2] The method of claim 1 wherein the 32-bit code is an operating system kernel for loading and running programs during the occurrence of the system management mode interrupt.

[c3] The method of claim 2 wherein the programs are Windows NT Portable Executable programs.

[c4] The method of claim 1 wherein the computer system is based on an Intel Pentium processor.